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said rod blocks the flow of said matrix material to said outlet port in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material to said outlet port in a second position, and maintains contact with said fluid flow and allows the flow of said fluid through said outlet port in all positions; capturing said matrix material and permitting said fluid to flow therepast by positioning said binary end of said rod in said first position by rotating either said rod or the column chamber with respect to the other; and opening said outlet by positioning said binary end of said rod in said second position by rotating either said rod or the column chamber with respect to the other, thereby permitting said matrix material and said fluid to flow through said outlet port thereby unpacking the matrix material from the column chamber.

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5. (four times amended) A method of forming a packed column comprising: providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port alternately open or partially obstructed by a binary end of a rod placed in the actuator port by rotating either said rod or the column chamber with respect to the other wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material in a second position, and maintains contact with said fluid flow and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions; and flowing a mixture of a first fluid and a matrix material into the column chamber through the inlet end for packing the matrix material within the column chamber.

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8. (thrice amended) A method for purifying a component of a sample comprising: providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port alternately open or partially obstructed about a binary end of a

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rod placed in the actuator port wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material in a second position, and maintains contact with said fluid flow and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions;

flowing a first fluid and a matrix material into the column chamber through the inlet end and along a first flow path to form a packed column of the matrix material within the column chamber, the rod holding the matrix material and permitting flow of the first fluid therethrough, the matrix material being configured to selectively retain a component of the sample; flowing the sample through the packed column for separating the component from the rest of the sample;

unobstructing the flow port by rotating either said rod or the column chamber with respect to the other; and

flowing a second fluid through the column to remove the matrix material from the column chamber.

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17. (thrice amended) A method for purifying a biological sample comprising: providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port partially obstructed with a rod with a binary end wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material in a second position, and maintains contact with said fluid flow and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions;

flowing a mixture of a first fluid and a matrix material into the column chamber to form a packed column of the matrix material within the column chamber, the matrix material being configured to selectively retain a biological sample; flowing a sample containing the biological sample through the packed column to separate the biological sample from other components of the sample; rotating either said rod or the column chamber with respect to the other and flowing a second fluid through the column